

Whether it originates here or in the House is irrelevant to me. What is relevant is that it does originate. I hope that one body or the other would originate a continuing resolution to say let us not hold anybody hostage, let us not make anybody pay a price at this point for our failure. Let us continue to negotiate around the clock and let us not have the Government shut down while these negotiations continue.

I know that the Democrats were meeting today in the Capitol. I was a part of those meetings most of the day. I am sure that Republicans were meeting in the Capitol. I hope that people of good will on both sides want to find a way to solve this problem. The American people expect this problem to be solved. But the failure to provide a CR for a very short time and to have a Government shutdown remain in effect tomorrow morning is, in my judgment, an approach that simply penalizes both the American taxpayers and also Federal workers. I guess I hope that the way we would decide the issue at 6 o'clock on Sunday night is to pass a continuing resolution without clauses and without conditions—just do it, get the Government up, operating and open for the American people, and then let us in the next day or two or three or four solve this problem of the balanced budget with the right priorities and do it for our country. That is what I hope the majority leader will consent to. And if he does not consent now, I hope that one way or the other very soon we will find a way to consent to a clean 5-day CR to avoid the continuation of the Government shutdown.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I am not a shutdown advocate. I think the Senator knows that I am not one of those who advocates it. I think the Federal workers become pawns in this exercise, which is not fair to them. And I have held that view. They are sort of caught in the middle. It is a very, very difficult issue that we are trying to bring together. The American people want us to balance the budget. They have wanted us to do that for a long time. They want a balanced budget amendment. We failed by one vote in the Senate.

They want a 7-year—I think they would rather have a quicker one, but a 7-year balanced budget makes a lot of sense to many Americans because they see their interest rates lowering when they go out to buy a car or home loan or student loan. It will be much less expensive. It is like a tax cut for particularly middle-class Americans.

So the American people are on the side of a balanced budget. They want welfare reform. They want us to preserve and strengthen Medicare. I think most Americans with children want tax cuts for families with children.

So there are a number of very important matters that we need to resolve. We are not going to do it here this evening, obviously. But I say again, it seems to me that if people look at the record—and understand that this

Labor-HHS bill, striker replacement, affects labor. It is on an appropriations bill, but it certainly is not the first time. I bet there are a dozen other measures on that bill that probably should be in an authorization bill.

But in any event, there has been an objection. I regret there has been an objection. We could have sent it to the House where they could have taken it up tomorrow and maybe removed the partial shutdown.

I have just been notified that Mr. Panetta, the chief of staff of the White House, indicates that the President will call Republican leaders tomorrow and apparently discuss a temporary spending authority bill. I hope that in addition to that, the President would discuss, how do we resolve the dilemma, how do we get together a balanced budget for 7 years?

Again, I think it is time for adult leadership. It is time for the principals to be principals. We are prepared to do that. This is not an exercise that we want to take up through the rest of this week and all next week. But if necessary, I think the American people, once it is done and once they see the benefits, will thank us for staying here and getting our work done. That is what we get paid for.

LIHEAP

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I was pleased to learn earlier this afternoon that President Clinton plans to act tomorrow, Monday, to release \$578 million in Federal funds for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP. The President's action will make \$22.89 million available to Massachusetts immediately.

As we all know, the availability of LIHEAP funds had been drastically restricted under the two stopgap funding bills passed by Congress since the end of September. With the expiration of the latest stopgap bill at midnight last Friday, President Clinton is free to release the funds and will do so tomorrow.

So this means Christmas will be arriving a week early for the 137,000 low-income families in communities across Massachusetts who rely on Federal energy assistance to keep their homes warm in winter weather. President Clinton deserves great credit for taking advantage of this window of opportunity to release these urgently needed funds.

In recent weeks, with cold weather already hitting Massachusetts and many States hard, we have been urging Congress and the administration to find a way to end the unfortunate and irresponsible impasse over LIHEAP funding and enable the assistance to start flowing to low-income families facing large heating bills.

By this time last year, Massachusetts had received about \$32 million in

LIHEAP funds. So far this year, only \$9.6 million has been received because of the restrictions in the stopgap funding bills. Under President Clinton's action, this year's LIHEAP funding will be on a par with last year's, and families will be getting the relief they need and deserve.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m., Monday, December 18, that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for morning business until the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, following morning business on Monday, the Senate will resume consideration of the DOD authorization bill. I understand we are trying to get an agreement when we might vote on that bill Tuesday morning. The House will be taking up, in late afternoon because of the holiday tomorrow—after 4 or 5—the D.C. appropriations bill, which if passed by the House and passed by the Senate would then at least permit D.C. workers to be back on the job.

It is my hope that we can get an agreement on the Senate side that would deem the conference report passed when received in the Senate; otherwise we might have to stay here until late tomorrow evening. I do not believe there will be any rollcall votes. If a rollcall vote is required on that bill, we would have to wait until Tuesday morning. But I believe under the urgency of passing this bill we can reach some agreement with colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

There will also be a vote on the motion to invoke cloture to proceed to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill sometime Tuesday morning after consultation with the two leaders.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M., TOMORROW

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if there be no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

Thereupon, at 6:13 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Monday, December 18, 1995, at 11 a.m.